

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 21 Michaelmas Term 2011

Christ's at War

The Old Library
Bletchley Park
Memories of War

Thomas Nelson Jr.

An American Patriot at Christ's

Plumb Symposium





*The Master at the National Portrait Gallery
31 October 2011 - copyright Miranda Parry*

From the Master

Welcome to the Michaelmas edition of *Pieces*. The new intake of students has now settled into life in the thriving Christ's community. Already the calendar has been very full, starting with some convivial reunion dinners and a young alumni wine-tasting event at Vinopolis, a new initiative by the Development Office (please see the back cover for photos and details). This year we have been celebrating the centenary of J H Plumb, and on 31 October we hosted a very successful Dinner at the National Portrait Gallery with speakers Simon Schama and Sir David Cannadine. This followed the well-attended Plumb Symposium on 2 July, a report of which is given by Professor David Reynolds on page 7.

In *Christ's at War* (pp.8-11) we feature the experiences of members of College during war time, from the Old Library exhibition on the First World War to the experiences of alumni in the Second World War, with your memories and a report on Christ's contribution to the work at Bletchley Park.

We also explore our American connections, as Professor Geoffrey Martin, Honorary Keeper of the Archives, introduces us to alumnus Thomas Nelson Jr: one of the Signers of the American Declaration of Independence (p.6); and one of our current undergraduates, Alex Forzani (m. 2009) reports back from his internship on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. (p.5).

Read on for these articles and more alumni and College news, including Micheal Johnston (m. 1954) on his work in Interfaith Schools (p.4) and a call to international alumni from the Development Office (p.12). We hope you enjoy the latest edition.

Professor Frank Kelly FRS

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Lacecap hydrangea in the Fellows' Garden

College News

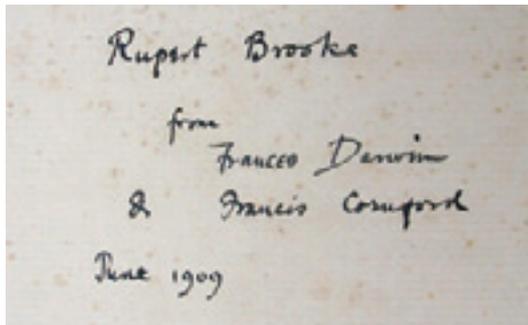


Senior Proctor

Dr Alan Winter, Tutor and Director of Studies in Mathematics for Natural Sciences was elected at the Congregation of the Regent House as Senior Proctor for the academic year 2011-12. The Senior Proctor is a representative of the Regent House in formal and disciplinary matters.



Milton and Rupert Brooke



Due to the generous support of Miles Millar (m. 1987) and his wife Charlotte, the College has obtained Rupert Brooke's copy of the privately printed facsimile of the Trinity manuscript of Milton's poems (pictured above), which was given to Brooke in 1909 by Frances Darwin and Francis Cornford. Francis Cornford was a classical scholar; Fellow of Trinity, and author of *Microcosmographia Academica* (1908). Frances Darwin was Darwin's granddaughter. We are delighted to have this book in our Library's collection.

University Election



Lord Sainsbury has been elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. The Chancellor is also the Visitor to Christ's College. HRH Prince

Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, stood down on 30 June after 34 years in the post. Prince Philip has been a regular visitor to the College and we look forward to welcoming Lord Sainsbury to Christ's soon.

Changing Faces

This Michaelmas Term we welcomed new staff to the library and Chapel. The Reverend Bernard Randall joined as our new Chaplain. To find out more about him visit: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/people/chaplain/ In the library Amelie Roper has joined as College Librarian, and Stephen Archer as Assistant Librarian. Charlotte Byrne, former Graduate Trainee, is now Library Assistant and Thomas Guest is our new Graduate Trainee. To find out more about the library please visit: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/library/



Christ's College Medical Alumni Association

By Dr Visvan Navaratnam

A highly instructive and enjoyable meeting of the CCMAA was held on Saturday 17 September followed by dinner in Hall. Stimulating presentations were made by Dr Michael O'Sullivan (m. 1987, Clinical Director of Cardiology at Addenbrooke's), Dr Tony Jewell (m. 1969, CMO Wales), The Rt Hon Mr John Healey (m. 1979, MP and Shadow Health Secretary) and Mr Hamish Robertson (undergraduate m. 2010, pictured above). Professor Peter McNaughton (Fellow) and Dr Fazal Hasan (m. 1979) spoke entertainingly after dinner. Further meetings are planned for September 2012 in London, and for 6 April 2013 in College; further details will follow.

Lady Margaret Lecture Professor Dominic Lieven FBA

1 February 2012, 5:30pm, Yusuf Hamied Theatre, Christ's

How and Why Russia Defeated Napoleon

Based on Professor Lieven's book, *Russia against Napoleon*, (awarded a Wolfson Prize in 2010) this lecture will explain why Russia not only defeated Napoleon in 1812 but pursued him all the way to Paris in 1813-14 toppling him from his throne. This lecture looks at war and foreign policy and how the Russian home front was mobilised in pursuit of victory. (Further details on the College website)



Interfaith Schools

Micheal Johnston (m. 1954) was awarded a DEd (h.c.) by Dublin University, Trinity College, on 1 July 2011

Micheal Johnston

I was a student at Christ's from 1954 to 1958 — not I am afraid a great scholar, leaving with a BA in English and Law and without an LLB. But I had a stimulating and enjoyable time there, and learnt a lot that stood me in very good stead for the rest of my life. And I made many life-long friends. The Boat Club took up much of my time, and over my four years I made 19 bumps, and was never bumped — tho' coming close to it on a couple of occasions. Not quite a College record at the time. I also did a bit of acting, a bit of debating, sang in the College choir, got my College Colours at lacrosse, and in due course was Hon. Sec. and then Captain of CCBC. After going down I worked three years with BBC TV Talks Department in Lime Grove, starting as a modest researcher, and finishing as a television director. I then returned home to be one of the first television producer/directors with the new Irish television service, Radio Telefís Éireann, in television first and then in radio. I married Pat, my father and her mother had been friends growing up, but nothing came of that; but Pat and I took our eldest child Brigid home with us from England; and her four siblings were born on the old sod.

Trinity awarded me the Honorary DEd for my part in a couple of organisations that have contributed towards a significant change in the Irish education system. They were the Dalkey School Project and EDUCATE TOGETHER — I

was the first Chairman of both these bodies, which were set up to offer a new choice to Irish parents. For a hundred years primary education in Ireland had been conducted in state schools, known as National Schools, which were run for the state by the Churches: the choice for the Irish parent was a Catholic school, or a Protestant school. The National Schools had been established in 1830 as schools for all the children together; but this was a bit advanced for its time, and all the Churches contributed to the denominationalisation of the system in about one generation. The DSP, established in 1974, lobbied strongly for schools within the system, where children of all denominations or none could be educated together in schools under a democratic management structure. In 1978 the first such school was opened, the Dalkey School Project NS, and since then this new sector has burgeoned. In September 2011 the 60th of these schools was opened, and serious progress is being made towards a first secondary school under the patronage of EDUCATE TOGETHER, which was set up as an umbrella group to co-ordinate negotiations with the Department of Education and other bodies, and to help groups wishing to set up such schools.

Trinity's award to me of the DEd (h.c.) is recognition of a fundamental change in the structure of Irish education, which is symptomatic of a new Ireland; and of the hard-won achievements of the many parents, teachers and members of the Dalkey School Project and EDUCATE TOGETHER. And we had great fun doing it!

Pictured: Micheal Johnston and his sister Jennifer on 1 July 2011



Alex Forzani (m. 2009) shaking hands with Congressman Don Young (R-AK) during his internship on Capitol Hill

Christ's on Capitol Hill

Last Summer Christ's Student Alex Forzani (m. 2009) completed an internship on Capitol Hill, Washington DC. Here is Alex's Congressional Diary

I was, I have to say, both excited and daunted by the prospect of having to spend two months working in the United States. Excited because of the prospect of working in the US House of Representatives, but daunted because of all the unknowns that lay ahead of me.

Arriving in Washington, D.C. in the middle of June, I quickly got down to work. Most observers, who have never been to the US Capitol before, probably imagine that all of the Senators and Congressmen work in the main building. However, there are actually a series of other ancillary buildings connected by a network of underground trains and tunnels where much of the governing is done. It was to one of these, the Rayburn House Office Building, which I reported on that first Monday morning. This was the office of Congressman Don Young, a Republican and the only representative from the huge state of Alaska. It was certainly quite an office. Being the second-most senior sub-leadership Republican, having served for nearly forty years, it was an impressive space. Unlike a British MP's office, which has barely enough room for a picture to be hung, the

Congressman's walls were covered with animals acquired during his many hunting expeditions including Kodiak bear, Cape Buffalo and Impala to name but a few.

It soon became apparent that this was no ordinary office. On that very first Monday, me, an intern, freshly arrived from Britain, was shaking hands and having a conversation with a member of the US House of Representatives. For the first few days, I was given 'traditional' intern tasks-answering telephone calls from constituents in Alaska, sorting out paperwork and manning the front desk, but as I settled into the office more, so more work came my way. Eventually, I was writing letters to constituents; to fellow members of Congress asking them to support legislation and doing research and drafting bills that were going to be introduced in the next session. Without doubt, however, the biggest event, or perhaps crisis would be the mot juste, of my internship was the debate over the debt ceiling raise. In short, the federal government was, on August 2, 2011, so the Treasury Department had calculated, due to reach its borrowing limit and from then on could not afford to meet its financial obligations. The office was inundated with calls, faxes and emails urging the Congressman to vote one way or another and other Representatives were charging around the halls trying to force a deal.

It would be a mistake to think that this was the only thing that interns on Capitol Hill had to do. It is a remarkable place to spend eight weeks, largely because there are so many opportunities there that one cannot get anywhere else. Apart from eating in the Members Dining Room or attending the Ice Cream Parties, during my time in Washington, I listened to former Secretary of State Colin Powell talk in the House Chamber; heard what the Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer had to say about the budget negotiations and went to committee hearings to see Hilary Clinton, John Kerry and John McCain.

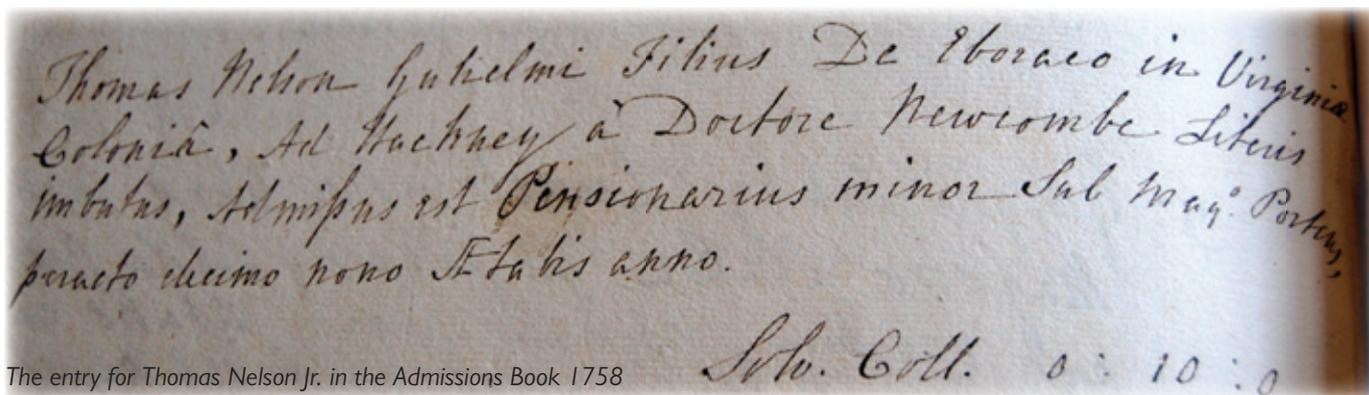
The internship was also a chance for Anglo-American dialogue. Other interns and staffers always came over to talk whenever they heard my British accent. Most, if not all, had some degree of either admiration or affection for Britain and always tried to understand the quirks of our political system. It is fair to suggest that a good deal of my summer was given to explaining why the House of Lords isn't elected; fielding questions about why we don't have a president and countering jibes, friendly ones, about the 1776 Revolutionary War, which were especially difficult to combat on July 4.

Working in Washington was an extraordinary way to experience life in America. Friendships were made across the Atlantic as I found the US to be a warm, friendly and welcoming country, whose people are always willing to help and are happy and quick to debate with you about political issues.

We would be delighted to hear from alumni interested in offering internships to current students or recent graduates. Please contact Rosie Applin: alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk

An American Patriot at Christ's College

Geoffrey T. Martin, Hon. Keeper of the Archives
introduces us to alumnus Thomas Nelson, Jr.
(1738-1789)



The entry for Thomas Nelson Jr. in the Admissions Book 1758

It will probably come as a surprise to most, if not all members of Christ's to learn that the College can claim as an alumnus one of the Signers of the American Declaration of Independence from British Rule (1776). He is Thomas Nelson, Jr. He is perhaps not a household name in the United States, unlike his fellow Signer Thomas Jefferson, the chief author of the Declaration, yet he and the other fifty five men of substance who signed the document- thereby risking their lives and property in many cases- will forever be revered as the founding fathers of the Republic.

Biographical information on the Signers is plentiful on the Internet, and a portrait of Thomas Nelson is to be seen there, together with a specimen of his signature. Internet sources state that he was a member of Trinity College, Cambridge, but we can claim him indubitably as a Christ's man, a timely reminder that the celebrated Internet resource is not infallible. His name is registered in the Admissions Book of the College, together with details of his room charges, crucial documents preserved in the College Archives. He seems not to have taken a degree. The Admissions book entry is in Latin, a language still being used in the eighteenth century for many official purposes, but Dr John Peile (24th Master of the College) provides a version in English in Vol. II of his invaluable *Biographical Register of Christ's College 1505-1905*, published in 1913. From it (p.266) we read that he was son of William Nelson, and was born at York, Virginia, educated at Hackney School under Dr Newcome, and admitted pensioner (fee-paying student) at Christ's under Mr Porteous on 15 May 1758 when he was 19. A further note on Thomas Nelson was added by Dr Peile in the Errata and Addenda section towards the end of his volume (p.900): 'Born at Yorktown, Virginia, Dec. 26, 1738; a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a well-known Virginian; died 1789'.

This statement riveted my attention some time ago when turning the pages of Peile to answer a query, and has now prompted me to write this preliminary note on Thomas Nelson, and to make his name more widely known to present members of the College and to our many alumni, not least those in the United States of America.

The Bicentenary of the Declaration of Independence was widely celebrated in 1976, though it seems that no special exhibition was mounted in the University Library to commemorate the event in that year. Perhaps no-one thought to ask if any of the Signers were Cambridge men? Further research has shown that only two other Cambridge Colleges can claim alumni as Signers: Trinity Hall (Arthur Middleton) and Caius (Thomas Lynch, Jr.). Our own Alumnus is buried in the cemetery of Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown, Virginia. His grave-marker reads:

Gen. THOMAS NELSON Jr.
Patriot, Soldier, Christian, Gentleman
Born December 26, 1738
Died January 2, 1789
Mover of the Resolution of May 15, 1776
In the Virginia Convention
Instructing his Delegates in Congress
To Move that body to Declare the Colonies
Free and Independent States
Signer of Declaration of Independence
War Governor of Virginia Forces
He Gave All for Liberty

Assuredly a man to be remembered and commemorated by Christ's American Alumni.



The Admissions Book 1674 to 1858

Plumb Symposium

Remembering Jack Plumb

David Reynolds



August 20 2011 would have been Sir John Plumb's hundredth birthday. 'Jack', as he was generally known, missed his century by ten years but his memory lives on. This was evident on 2 July when over one hundred historians and alumni gathered in the Yusuf Hamied Theatre to consider 'J.H. Plumb and the Writing of History'.

A Fellow of Christ's for over fifty years and Master in 1978-82, Jack held a personal chair as Professor of Modern English History. He was best known for his works on various facets of the 18th century including the Pelican history *England in the Eighteenth Century* and *The Growth of Political Stability*, biographical volumes such as *The First Four Georges* and *Sir Robert Walpole*, and studies at the intersection of political, social and cultural history, notably *Birth of the Consumer Society*. Jack was also a hugely influential teacher and a leading public intellectual who disseminated history to a general audience on both sides of the Atlantic not least through the BBC's *Royal Heritage* TV series, for which he was knighted in 1982.

To mark his centenary we invited six distinguished historians to reflect on Jack's achievements and on how the historical profession changed during his lifetime. Linda Colley (Princeton, Hon. Fellow) and Paul Langford (Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford) spoke about Plumb and the writing of 18th-century history. Roey Sweet (Leicester) discussed changing approaches to social history while Neil McKendrick (former Master of Caius, Hon. Fellow) explored the social history of Jack himself. Finally Stefan Collini (Clare Hall) and Sir David Cannadine (Princeton, Hon. Fellow) considered Plumb and the changing role of the historian as a public intellectual. All six talks are now available on the College website: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/distinguished-alumni/professor_jack_plumb/

A fascinating afternoon ended with an excellent dinner in Hall at which Professor Barry Supple (Hon. Fellow) was the guest speaker. Whether Jack would have liked being the

object of historical inquiry is debatable but the gastronomic finale was definitely vintage Plumb. Our thanks to the Levy-Plumb Fund, the Trevelyan Fund in the History Faculty and the Managers of the Glenfield Trust for their generous support of this event.



Dr Stephen Thompson (J. H. Plumb Fellow) with the Master at the Plumb Symposium 2 July, 2011

J. H. Plumb Fellow

Dr Stephen Thompson (pictured above) is the new J. H. Plumb Fellow in History

Dr Stephen Thompson read History at Trinity College, Cambridge (2002-5) and stayed there to undertake postgraduate research in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British History. In 2009 he was elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's, the second Cambridge College to be founded by Lady Margaret Beaufort.

In his PhD, Stephen explored the intellectual and political context of British census-taking between 1790 and 1840. By combining an intellectual historian's attention to the importance of political utterances with an economic historian's interest in long-term structural change, he was able to show how census-taking both reflected, and contributed to, new understandings of the British state.

More recently, Stephen has started a new research project on welfare provision in eighteenth-century English towns. One aim of this project is to investigate parliament's efforts to regulate economy and society in communities experiencing the early phases of industrialization. As the focus of his research appears to be shifting more firmly into the eighteenth century, he feels particularly honoured to have been elected J.H. Plumb Fellow in History at Christ's.

We are grateful to the Glenfield Trust and the many alumni who made this appointment possible.

Christ's at War

In the following pages, Charlotte Byrne, Edward Simpson (m. 1940) and Tamsin Astbury consider the impact of the war on Christ's College

Christ's at War in the Old Library

Charlotte Byrne, Library Assistant, gives an insight into her recent exhibition in the Old Library



Christ's College, 1918/19, taken by David Parkinson's (m. 1963) father Kenneth Parkinson (m. 1918)

Christ's at War: The College and its members during the First World War, highlighted the changing face of the College during this tumultuous time. During the Michaelmas term of 1914 half of Christ's promising young men had enlisted in the army and the College's numbers continued to diminish as the war went on. The College didn't remain empty for long though as it soon started accommodating companies of training officers. Bugle call at 7:15 became a part of daily College life and there was a ban on outside lights in the College. Only a few electric lights were used in hall and the High Table was lit by candles.

Mark Fearn, Buildings Superintendent, in costume in the reconstructed Y.M.C.A Hut



The tin College crest saved from the Y.M.C.A. Hut in Ypres

The College made a special contribution to the War effort by funding a Y.M.C.A. Hut in Ypres. Arthur Shipley, Master of Christ's at the time, raised £700 for the building which provided respite for soldiers coming off the front line. Shipley was given updates on the hut by members of Y.M.C.A. staff and it was widely acknowledged that the Christ's College Hut was one of the best in the area. Samuel Maddock, a volunteer worker, wrote this about the hut: "Every night the men throng it, whether there be a concert or not, and all day long they are in and out, reading the papers, writing letters (for which we supply them gratis with paper and envelopes), playing games, or chatting around the stove." The hut was unfortunately destroyed in June 1918 but a tin College crest, which once adorned the hut was brought back to College and is now on display in a replica hut in the Library.

Christ's College also has a link to the much-loved War memorial that stands on Hills Road in Cambridge. Kenneth Hamilton who was an undergraduate at Christ's in 1921, was spotted by the sculptor, Tait McKenzie at a Christ's dinner and subsequently became the model for the soldier in the memorial.

The exhibition also featured three moving letters written from the front line to W.H.D. Rouse (m. 1881). Rouse who studied classics at Christ's was head master of the Perse School, Cambridge during the War and he received a number of touching letters from some of his former pupils.

For more information visit our online exhibition blog at: <http://christsatwar.wordpress.com/>

Christ's and Bletchley Park

Edward Simpson (m. 1945)



View of Christ's roof, covered with ladders in case of fire taken by Jim Long circa 1942

The Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, which broke German, Italian and Japanese ciphers and analysed the resulting intelligence, was one of Britain's success stories in World War II. It drew heavily on Cambridge for its senior staff. This short personal account of participation from Christ's is bound to be incomplete.

The senior amongst us, Hugh Foss, learned Japanese in Japan at an early age. From Christ's he joined GC&CS soon after graduating in 1924. At Bletchley Park he was leading work on Japanese Naval ciphers when, at the end of 1943, he joined the Liaison Unit in Washington. He was tall and slim, with reddish beard and solemn countenance. Washington affectionately dubbed him their Lend-Lease Jesus.

Two senior Members worked in Bletchley Park's Naval Intelligence Section from 1940 and 1941. Jack Plumb had come up as a graduate research student in history in 1933. He returned to Christ's as Fellow in 1946, and remained there as distinguished historian and, from 1978, as Sir John and Master. Gorley Putt had entered College in 1930 and read English. He returned to Christ's as Fellow and Senior Tutor in 1968.

Bob (W.R.) Cox was in German Air Section from 1941. In 1942 C.P. Snow and Harry Hoff (respectively Fellow and Member of the College) interviewed me and sent me to Bletchley Park as a mathematician-cryptanalyst, working first in Italian Naval and later in Japanese Naval Section [footnote 1].

Following Japan's entry into the war Bletchley Park needed Japanese linguists in a hurry. The conventional wisdom was that training them would take two years. Instead, Colonel John Tiltman decided on a six-month crash course and set about recruiting young classicists from the Oxford and Cambridge Colleges who were judged best fitted to rise to the challenge. On Sidney Grose's recommendation Christopher and Maurice Wiles joined the first course in 1942 and Hugh Melinsky a later one in 1943. Were there, I wonder, others? Afterwards Christopher and Maurice worked in Bletchley Park's Japanese Military

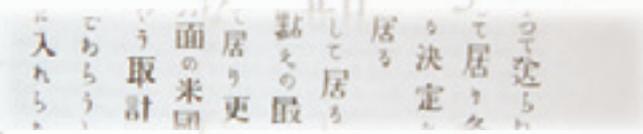
Section [footnote 2] and Hugh was despatched to the Central Bureau in Brisbane, Borneo and the Philippines [footnote 3]. The success of the course confounded the conventional wisdom.



Hugh Melinsky (m. 1942) from his book 'A Code-Breaker's Tale'. Arriving in Sydney knowing he was going to be commissioned Hugh borrowed another English officer's service dress and had his photo taken for his parents (p.52)

Michaelmas term 1945 saw some of us in College. Bob Cox and Christopher Wiles resumed their interrupted courses. Maurice Wiles and I took up Open Scholarships deferred since 1941, he to read Moral Sciences and Theology, I as a graduate research student in mathematical statistics. Hugh Melinsky returned in 1946 to read Theology. So ingrained was the secrecy that we were mostly unaware of each others' Bletchley Park involvements. There was no Old Boys' Club.

Subsequently Bob (later Sir Robert) Cox and I became senior civil servants. Maurice Wiles and Hugh Melinsky were ordained. Hugh went on to a series of clerical appointments, committees and books, and Maurice became Oxford University Regius Professor of Divinity.



Footnotes

1. Chapter 9 of Erskine and Smith: "The Bletchley Park Codebreakers", 2011.
2. Smith: "The Emperor's Codes", 2000, passim.
3. Melinsky: "A Code-breaker's Tale", 1998.

Memories of War

A few months ago Tamsin Astbury, Publications Officer, put out a call for alumni wartime memories. Tamsin explores the following recollections.

Earlier this year I received a letter from Robert F. Clark (m. 1943) in which he explained that his time at Cambridge, although precious had been short: 'At the end of the war I tried to return to complete my course. I was told that there was a 5 year waiting list. I had to move on with my life.' Robert's experience was like so many, the course of whose lives the War resolutely diverted. This letter inspired me to gather the recollections of those who matriculated at Christ's in the years closely preceding, during and following the Second World War. This article reflects a small sample of the resulting collection. Rising through the memories is the sense of a lost idyll; fleeting moments at Christ's treasured during years of hardship and life changing experience.

Despite being a valued haven, Christ's did not remain untouched. Rationing was in force and those who remained at Cambridge were expected to volunteer. Michael Prigorowsky (m. 1945) recalls that crumpets and peanut butter were some of the few "off-ration" products and that he a friend used to collect their peanut butter in an empty jar from a shop near the Market Square. Beneath all was the pervading atmosphere of war. In an extract from Tony Dumper's (m. 1941) letters he writes on 23/4/44:



George Kemp (m. 1943), bottom middle, R. Clark (m. 1943), top middle. Royal Engineers Short Course, Cambridge

The backs are always, even in the dead of winter, a feast for the eyes. The back of Trinity is particularly lovely. You can lean over the old stone bridge and look into the calm water broken only by an occasional punt or canoe passing beneath the overhanging weeping willows. One seems removed from the world until you notice the throb of aeroplanes which forms a continual background to life at Cambridge. This term it has hardly stopped since we have been here – all night and all day until you become deadened to the sound.



Paul R. Swyer and his wife, Fernande at Christ's May Ball

Paul R. Swyer read medicine and matriculated in 1938, war being declared at the beginning of his second and last year because of the accelerated emergency medical course. He remembers seeing 'exhausted, dishevelled troops passing though Cambridge after the evacuation' from Dunkirk, even in 1938 he describes the 'ominous air of impending war. Paul shared digs with two other Christ's men, Eric Russell and Fred Franklin. Fred joined the RAF and Eric the Services. Paul being a medic remained, he writes:

This melting away of contemporaries, leaving the 10 medics in my year in our reserved occupation, was disturbing. One had a feeling of guilt for our privileged stay in Cambridge. Many of my non medical contemporaries I was never to see again as casualties of war.

Of those that remained behind, some were in reserved occupations, others medically unfit and some conscientious objectors. Canon Raven himself was a pacifist. In spite of all life went on, with College smokers, choral concerts, plays and sporting activity, although rowing proved difficult on the low calorie rations. As William Goodhugh Dawson (m. 1943) recalls:

Jim Long used to feel very faint after rowing and indeed the diet was not adequate to support that sporting activity.

A number of names recur frequently and fondly in the recollections. Francis H. K. Marshall, the Dean, known as Tibby, is recalled, in one instance by Paul Swyer, bent over a flowerbed:

"Come here Swyer, look at this". I saw the two College tortoises warily circling each other. After a pause to take in the scene he said "Oh, Swyer, how I wish they would copulate!"

It is to be understood that Tibby was awarded a Gold medal by the Royal Society for his life's work on the

physiology of sex. Robert G. E. Murray (m. 1938) recalls that he and a group of friends serenaded this triumph under his window. Ian Ramsey, the Chaplain, is also a fondly remembered figure, having officiated at the marriages of some alumni. Hugh Melinsky (m. 1942) remembers being invited to the Chaplain's wedding in Chapel, conducted by the Master, Canon Charles Raven. His wife Margaret, Hugh describes as a fortunate choice, as she came from Eire where there was no food rationing, which meant they could serve fruitcake. David W. Dewhirst (m. 1944) recalls an unusual occasion were he encountered the Master:

I occupied one of the attic rooms in the Fellows' Building ... On a summer afternoon I heard unfamiliar footsteps outside my window. To my astonishment, I found it was indubitably, the Master, gesturing to be let in. Charles Raven was a tall and angular man, but by moving chairs around and a little man handling I got him to the floor ... He explained that for years he had perambulated the leads at night, fire watching...and with VJ Day he was having a last nostalgic walk around.

For many once the war was over the journey back to Cambridge wasn't simple. Some were unable to return because of the length of the waiting list. Others were still held on wartime business. Brian Groombridge (m. 1948) served in the RAF for almost four years. However as he explains he'd only served for about a year-and-a-half when the war ended, but the services 'rightly' applied a 'first-in, first-out' system of demobilisation. Once he did return he found his path had changed: 'I returned to Cambridge and confessed to Ramsey that I was now an agnostic and politically well on the left ... I completed Part I, but reckoned that I needed to move from the abstract to the concrete, so then I read history with Dr John Plumb'. Stephen Harding (m. 1944) remarks that he arrived at Christ's at the beginning of October 1944 'rather tenuously attached' to his right arm having suffered a serious pre RAF training accident. Sadly his first days were 'scarred by the loss of my friend, Flying Officer Ronnie Naif, RAFVR'. Otherwise he found Christ's 'a joy' making good friends over the next four years. After the War students starting Christ's recalled the mixture of ex-servicemen and fresh faced students, which John Waller found very beneficial. However Russell Carpenter (m. 1945) reflects that the 'wearing of gowns and gating by midnight' must have been irksome to the ex-servicemen, but they 'accepted everything with good humour'.

Life at Christ's held an uneasy duality as the war encroached ever closer. Students faced the first excitement of living away from home, borne alongside the responsibilities of preparing for war. Time at Christ's was often too short, but was highly valued.

The lectures at the Cavendish were awesome, I had fun in a canoe with friends, I cyded everywhere, carried out a plane table survey on the fens and fell in love for the first time. Now after 68 years it is a real pleasure, thanks to the internet to be reconnected with the college again and to have the monthly magazines to read. That the college is highly regarded in so many ways makes me proud to have once been a student if only for 6 months.

Robert F. Clark (m. 1943)



Cyril Fitt's (m. 1938) Morris Minor with Jill Fitt and Fernande Swyer, dressed for Christ's May Ball

The above memories represent only a small fraction of those sent into the Development Office. I would like to express my thanks to all the alumni who kindly responded to my call, for the fascinating and invaluable information they provided.

To view the wartime recollections please visit the College website: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications/. If you would like to add your memories to these, please contact: Tamsin Astbury, Publications Officer, at the Development Office, or publications@christ's.cam.ac.uk.

Featured Publications

Extracts from these alumni publications can also be found on the website. My thanks to the authors for the permission to use their work. Should you wish to view these books please contact the library at library@christ's.cam.ac.uk or Tel. (0)1223 334900 to make an appointment.

A Code-breaker's Tale
Hugh Melinsky
Larks Press, ISBN 0 948400 70 6

Riding The Tiger - The Life of Brian
Brian Dowling

Stick and String
Terence Tinsley
Buckland Publications Ltd.

The Pelican in the Wilderness
Ivan Clutterbuck
Gracewing, ISBN 978085244 6218

Ivan's autobiography takes us from his earliest memories during the First World War, through family life in the parishes of South London and University days at Christ's College Cambridge in the 1930s, to long service as an Army Chaplain and then as a Chaplain of the Royal Navy.



Hong Kong



Calling International Alumni!



New York

We have around 1,500 alumni recorded as living in 96 countries spanning the globe. From the 105 of you living in Canada to the 26 of you living in Switzerland you all share the unique experience of time spent here at Christ's College.

Over the last five years, alumni events have taken place in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong amongst others. These have often been the result of a visit from one of our Senior Members, such as last year's Sydney Drinks with College President Dr David Jones (pictured bottom right).

The Development Office is keen to support alumni who are interested in hosting events, enabling international networking opportunities or becoming a point of contact for alumni in their area.

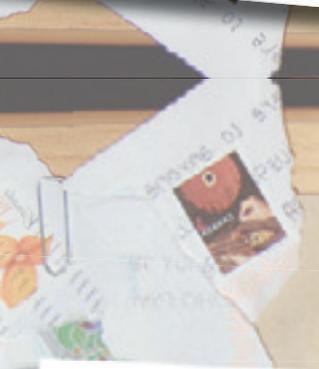
If you think you may be able to help us to bring Christ's alumni together in your part of the world, then please do get in touch with Rosie Applin the Alumni Officer: alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk



Singapore Drinks 2010



LA Barbeque, 2009



Hong Kong, 2010



Gibraltar Society Meeting, 2011



Sydney Drinks, 2010

The Association Dinner

On proposing a toast to the College

Richard Rastall (m. 1960)

I forget how often, smugly replete, I have listened to other people making after-dinner speeches and marvelled at their ability to say something new. Eventually the challenge was laid at my own door: an invitation to propose the toast to the College was an honour not to be declined. But what to say? My thoughts on the College are firm, but have matured over the years. From a callow undergraduate with a small but lively understanding of history to a retired historian (of a sort), I have come to appreciate not only the history of the College but its place in history and my own tiny part (largely unwritten, or at least unnoticed) in that history.

The College hall always recalls memories and a train of thought about history and our appreciation of it. The basic fabric of the College has changed relatively little over the last few centuries, and forms part of that historical continuum in which the College (as a social and intellectual unit, not just a series of buildings) has played such an important role. Of course there have been changes, almost all improvements; and there have been additions, though even a new building takes its place as part of College history after a few years. But can my own short experience of the College really be a part of that continuum?

When we are very young we see no evidence that our lives effect other people; later, when we live through events of obvious historical significance – like the destruction of the Twin Towers, or the Berlin Wall – we still can't clearly see their place in history because they are chronologically too close. It takes a decade or two to see such events in context: and it's as I've returned to the College now and then over the years that I've found my sense of being a part of the history of Christ's growing on me.

A sense of history doesn't come to everyone. My own students have progressively lost any real sense of history as their schools virtually stopped teaching it. They can get their heads round World War II - through movies, one suspects - but events of the 18th century or the 16th, let alone the 12th, might as well be fictional life on the moon. Their real loss is of that sense of long-term continuity that surrounds us in a place like Christ's.

That sense, ultimately, is why I like coming back: the knowledge that if we were to return in a century or two we should find the physical fabric of the College much as it is now, but with improvements; and the social and intellectual values enshrined here also surviving – the way to understanding through knowledge that makes for a civilized society.

Trying to put these random thoughts together seemed impossible: it sounded like an academic lecture, hardly what

was needed for a two-minute proposal of a toast. And then my performing self took over; and some of the ideas arranged themselves as verse. A bit of a cop-out, perhaps, but why not? It would surely be a "first": and even if John Milton was looking over my shoulder – which he was – perhaps verse in the style of Rupert Bear would be appropriate to the festive after-dinner atmosphere? So, rightly or wrongly, that's what I did ...

Master, and Mrs Kelly too,
My friends and fellows – all of you –
It's a great honour to propose
The health of Christ's. As one who blows
In here from time to time, I see
Improvements made, that seem to me
New bricks within the wall of history.

For we who come here now and then
Are conscious of the where and when
Of changes to a fabric which
In history is truly rich
And seems to us immutable –
Except that it is suitable
To change what's old and out-of-date
To what's efficient; and to rate –
Let's say - a room that's got en-suite
Facilities as pretty neat.

And so the time has come, I think,
To ask you all to stand and drink
To fabric old and changes good
Enshrining all that Christ's has stood
For in the near and distant past;
To social values that must last;
And intellectual activity
(That's brain-work) leading, hopefully,
To understanding sprung from knowledge.
So let us stand and toast – THE COLLEGE.

The College Association

All those who have been students at Christ's are automatically members of the Christ's College Association. The Association (formerly known as the Christ's College Club) was founded in 1905, the College's 400th anniversary year; as a way of keeping in touch with the College and with each other. It is run by a small group of alumni.

The Association holds an annual dinner in College each summer which provides an ideal opportunity to come back to College with a guest to enjoy good food, fine wine and convivial company.

The 2012 Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 30 June in the College.

Sport



Football

Ziad Khreishah (m. 2009)



The CCAFC continues to go from strength to strength having cemented itself in the top division of the college league in recent years. Notable achievements include Stephen Harrison playing his 50th game for the club as well as continuing his fine goal scoring record, his tally now reaching 59 in competitive play. Congratulations should also go to James May and Owen Morgan for being selected to be in the blues set up. After a good intake of new players and an encouraging start to the year, the rest of the season is full of promise for the CCAFC.



Rugby - Town v Gown

Rowan Kitt (m. 1991)

Town v Gown rugby match, Grange Road, 11.10.11

I refereed two Christ's players in the annual Town v Gown rugby match at Grange Road on October 11. It was a full-on affair and ended in a victory for the University against some bigger and professional players. Didi Akinluyi and Oliver Wolf stood out on the pitch as a pair of brave and committed flankers who got through countless tackles. Oliver was an U21 player last year whilst Didi has been in the Blues squad for a number of seasons. Both stand a real chance of getting Blues against the other place in December. When did Christ's last have two Blues in the back row against Oxford... a good question for alumni out there who can remember!

May Bumps Picnic

Robin Kerr (m. 1962)

Prognosis for the weather at this year's May Bumps picnic was grim but, nevertheless, a dedicated team arrived early at Morley's Holt to make ready, by raising the flag, and laying out the tables. Christ's was fielding an impressive eight crews, including rugby and fellows' boats. Of these, three made bumps visible from the picnic while two were bumped in front of us (though one of these was disallowed). 144 alumni, friends and relations attended (up from 100 last year) and, despite all those warnings, the day was surprisingly benign! Although no crew won blades this year, over the four days of racing Christ's crews rose by eight places, with the First Women remaining at a splendid third on the river; and the First Men rising to fourteenth.

Boat Club News

Alice Taylor-Bennett (m. 2009)



University Fours 2011, Christ's First IV v LMBC in the semi-finals

Determined for another successful year members returning to the Club this year have participated in a summer training competition and a training week before the start of Michaelmas term. The first race of Michaelmas term, the Autumn Head, showed some promising results across the club despite little time for training beforehand. The University Fours regatta held last week also saw some exciting races with both the first and second women's IV reaching the finals of their respective divisions despite both just missing out on first place. Following a successful training day in Peterborough we look forward to racing in the Winter Head and Fairbairns this term. Full race reports can be found at www.christsbc.co.uk. In addition to our senior boats, our Lower Boat Captains have been working hard for the first few weeks of term to recruit novice rowers and coxes and introduce them to the sport. We are pleased to have got together at least 4 novice crews to row this term and prepare for the upcoming Novice races and Queen's Ergs, the indoor rowing competition. We are also proud to announce that two women and two men are trialling for the University this year. As of the start of this academic year the Club has also found a new sponsor, TwoTwoFive, who we are looking forward to working with for the next few years. The Club would like to thank Nick Acock, our Boathouse Manager as well as the Steering Committee and College for their continual support of the Club.

Anyone for Golf?

John Sefton (m. 1958)

Would you be interested in playing in a Christ's Golf Day at Gog Magog on 20 July 2012? After lunch and 18 holes we would go to Christ's for Dinner; and for those travelling accommodation in College will be available. The indicative cost is £150 including overnight stay. This will be the inaugural event and if successful we will establish it in the College Calendar as a further opportunity to renew acquaintances. All members-young and old- will be welcome, and we will have a Ladies Stableford competition as well as a parallel one for the Men. If you are interested could you please inform Rosie Applin (alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk) to enable us to establish likely numbers and subsequently move forward.



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The Boys Are Back in Town!

At the 10 September Reunion Dinner Mike Cullen (m. 1976) and fellow alumni recreated a pose for the front cover of the College Magazine in 1979. It followed a year of great sporting success in the College when the College also had several University Captains who won their respective Blues matches against Oxford.

Top L to R - Jimmy Abbott, Tennis Captain Tennis Cuppers Champions Trophy, Mick McGuire, Football Captain and Blue, Cuppers Champions Trophy. Bottom L to R. Tony Overs, Football League Captain and Football Div 1 Champions Trophy. Mike Cullen, University Volleyball Captain. Blues Match trophy. Tim Davies, University Basketball Captain, Varsity Games Trophy.

Young Alumni Wine Tasting Vinopolis, London

As a new initiative in the Development Office we have started to organise events, designed exclusively for alumni who graduated from Christ's in the last ten years.

The first of these was held at Vinopolis on 14 October 2011. The event was a great success and alumni enjoyed an evening of competitive wine tasting and networking! If you would like to be included in the mailing list for future events please contact Development Assistant Adam Kent on ak725@cam.ac.uk

Pictured Right: Alumni at the Wine Tasting



Alumni Notice: The editor offers apologies that due to an administrative error it was wrongly reported in the College Magazine 2011 that Mr John. G. Watson (m. 1970) was deceased. We are happy to report that he is alive and well.



A Parting Shot - First Court, entries for the pumpkin carving competition (Todd Ticehurst)

Dates For Your Diary

14 December
Alumni Winter Drinks Reception, London

25 February
Law Society Dinner

17 March
Marguerites Dinner

24 March
MA Congregation Day and Dinner for alumni who matriculated in 2005

For more information on any of these events, please contact Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer: alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk 01223 768276



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